## NC Department of Commerce Workforce Monthly Activity December 2013

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION	Current Month <sup>P</sup> DEC 2013	Prior Month <sup>1</sup> NOV 2013	Prior Year <sup>1</sup> DEC 2012
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7%	7.0%	7.9%
North Carolina Unemployment Rate	6.9%	7.4%	9.4%
Number of workers unemployed in North Carolina	322,689	343,786	447,033
Number of workers employed in North Carolina	4,333,615	4,314,398	4,320,201
Size of North Carolina Civilian Labor Force	4,656,304	4,658,184	4,767,234
Estimated Nonfarm Employment in North Carolina	4,096,800	4,085,700	4,032,300

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) ACTIVITY <sup>2</sup>	Current Month DEC 2013	Prior Month <sup>1</sup> NOV 2013	Prior Year <sup>1</sup> DEC 2012
Individuals receiving UI benefits <sup>2</sup>	60,889	58,432	110,831
Weeks of UI paid <sup>2</sup>	245,747	209,393	400,676
Amount paid in UI and Federal Benefits <sup>2,4,5</sup>	\$62.2 Million	\$55.7 Million	\$237.3 Million
Amount paid in UI <sup>2,3</sup>	\$59.1 Million	\$52.6 Million	\$115.5 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier I <sup>4</sup>	\$19,385	\$48,887	\$48.6 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier II <sup>4</sup>	\$4,439	\$21,627	\$32.0 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier III <sup>4</sup>	\$2,844	\$6,013	\$15.6 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EUC Tier IV <sup>4</sup>	\$4,614	\$3,391	\$19.9 Million
Amount paid in Federal Benefits – EB <sup>5</sup>	\$1,216	\$261	\$12,017
Minimum/Maximum amount of UI benefits (per week) <sup>2</sup>	\$15 / \$350	\$15 / \$350	\$46 / \$535
Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount <sup>2</sup>	\$240.58	\$251.40	\$288.26
Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount (total unemployment) <sup>6</sup>	\$245.98	\$257.26	\$299.08
Average Duration (Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013)	16.4 Weeks	16.4 Weeks	16.3 Weeks
Duration Ranking (Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013)	24 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	$29^{th}$
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.1%	1.8%	3.1%
Total collected in UI Taxes in 12-month period ending Dec. 2013	\$1.6 Billion	\$1.5 Billion	\$1.5 Billion
Total paid in UI Benefits in 12-month period ending Dec. 2013 <sup>2</sup>	\$1.0 Billion	\$1.1 Billion	\$1.3 Billion
Trust Fund Balance	-\$1.8 Billion	-\$1.9 Billion	-\$2.5 Billion
Federal Loan Balance	\$1.8 Billion	\$1.9 Billion	\$2.5 Billion
State Reserve Balance	\$6.4 Million	\$54.7 Million	\$70.1 Million
Initial Claims <sup>2</sup>	33,157	26,273	62,861
Initial Claims Attached <sup>7</sup>	170	52	34,466
New Claims <sup>2</sup>	25,588	21,203	35,697
New Claims Attached <sup>7</sup>	143	28	12,229
Weeks Claimed <sup>2</sup>	348,713	286,940	491,983
Weeks Claimed Attached <sup>7</sup>	174	45	68,756
Claimants receiving First Payments <sup>2</sup>	12,996	11,181	27,273
Claimants receiving Final Payments <sup>2</sup>	13,164	7,668	12,647

UI BENEFITS PAID – TOP 15 COUNTIES DEC 2013 <sup>2</sup>								
1.	Mecklenburg	\$6,744,028	6.	New Hanover	\$1,472,714	11.	Cabarrus	\$975,068
2.	Wake	\$5,023,537	7.	Durham	\$1,341,345	12.	Robeson	\$940,935
3.	Guilford	\$3,153,980	8.	Gaston	\$1,278,031	13.	Davidson	\$914,425
4.	Forsyth	\$1,776,763	9.	Iredell	\$994,546	14.	Union	\$898,119
5.	Cumberland	\$1,752,881	10.	Buncombe	\$975,866	15.	Randolph	\$826,840

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>P</sup> Represents North Carolina preliminary data

Data in this column represent prior month, prior quarter or prior year data; i.e., prior year equals 2012 data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regular UI benefits paid under the state UI program unless otherwise noted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes benefits paid according to the federal ETA 5159 Claims and Payment Activities Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (EUC08) ended in North Carolina on June 29, 2013. North Carolina will continue to pay EUC08 benefits for weeks prior to June 29, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Extended Benefits program (EB) provides 80 percent or up to a maximum of 20 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Average Weekly UI Benefit Amount (total unemployment) utilizing calculations as stated in the ETA UI Data Summary.

Attached unemployment occurs when an individual is either partially or totally unemployed because of lack of work during a payroll week as established by his employer, but the individual retains his attachment to the payroll and work force of that employer.

## Highlights



The Department of Commerce Division of Employment Security (DES) paid \$62,209,707 in Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to unemployed claimants across North Carolina during December 2013, up 11.7 percent from November (\$55,685,518) and down 73.8 percent from December a year ago (\$237,322,410). These payments include state and federally funded benefits administered under the State UI, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members (UCX) programs. North Carolina paid \$59,121,814 in regular UI benefits from the State UI program in December 2013, up 12.3 percent from the previous month (\$52,641,863) and down 48.8 percent from December a year ago (\$115,497,841). A total of \$3,055,226 was paid in UCFE and UCX benefits administered under Regular UI in December 2013, up 3.1 percent from November (\$2,963,001) and down 46.4 percent from December of last year (\$5,695,844). The Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (EUC08) ended in North Carolina on June 29, 2013. North Carolina will continue to pay EUC08 benefits for weeks prior to June 29, 2013.

There were 245,747 Weeks compensated for Regular UI under the State UI program in December 2013, up 17.4 from November (209,393) and down 38.7 percent from December a year ago (400,676). Claimants who were partially unemployed and qualified for UI benefits received an average UI weekly benefit amount of \$240.58 in December 2013, down 4.3 percent from November (\$251.40) and 16.5 percent from December 2012 (\$288.26). Claimants who were totally unemployed and qualified for UI benefits received an average of \$245.98 in December 2013, down 4.4 percent from November (\$257.26) and 17.8 from December 2012 (\$299.08). (The maximum weekly benefit is currently \$350.00)

Individuals receiving one or more Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments, from all programs during calendar year 2012, were 499,578. Individuals receiving UI benefits for December 2013 totaled 60,889, — a 4.2 percent increase from the prior month (58,432), and a 45.1-percent decrease from the December 2012 volume (110,831).

During the third quarter 2013, North Carolina's average duration of Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance benefits increased from 15.9 weeks to 16.4 weeks, equal to Rhode Island. The national average was unchanged at 16.8 weeks during this time period. During the same quarter, states with lower duration weeks were: Georgia, 11.8; North Dakota, 11.9; Idaho, 12.6; Nebraska and South Carolina, 12.7; Utah, 13.3; Indiana, 13.5; Iowa, 13.6; Michigan, 13.7; Vermont, 13.9; Tennessee, 14.6; Missouri and South Dakota, 14.7; Maine, 14.9; Colorado, 15.1; Arkansas, Louisiana and Wyoming, 15.2; New Hampshire, 15.4; Mississippi, 15.6; Kansas, 15.7; Alabama, 15.8; Texas and West Virginia, 15.9; Wisconsin, 16.0; Virginia, 16.1; Washington, 16.2; and Arizona, 16.3.

December's statewide Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR), at 2.1 percent, rose above the 1.8 percent of November 2013 and dropped below the 3.1 percent of December a year ago.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was at a deficit of \$1,829,007,705 on December 31, 2013. Since Jan. 1, 2013, the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund deficit improved \$712,853,036. During December, DES collected \$68,766,809 in Unemployment Insurance taxes assessed to employers. The Federal Loan had a balance of \$1,833,394,795, and the State Reserve Fund had a balance of \$6,410,267.

There were 33,157 state UI Initial Claims (excluding Interstate Liable, UCX and UCFE) filed in December 2013, up 26.2 percent from the prior month's total of 26,273. Compared with December 2012 (62,861), Initial Claims' volume decreased 47.3 percent. Of the 33,157 Initial Claims in December 2013, 170 were attached Initial Claims, which increased 226.9 percent from the prior month's total of 52, and decreased 99.5 percent from December 2012 (34,466).

There were 25,588 New Claims in December 2013, up 20.7 percent from the prior month's total of 21,203, and down 28.3 percent from December 2012 level (35,697). Of these 25,588 New Claims, 143 were considered attached. Attached New Claims rose 410.7 percent from the prior month's total of 28, and fell 98.8 percent from the December 2012 level (12,229).

DES processed a total of 348,713 Weeks claimed for Unemployment Insurance in December 2013, up 21.5 percent from November (286,940), and down 29.1 percent from December a year ago (491,983). Attached Weeks claimed in December totaled 174, an increase of 286.7 percent from the prior month (45), and a decrease of 99.7 percent from the December 2012 level (68,756).

In December 2013, there were 12,996 claimants receiving first payments for unemployment insurance benefits – a 16.2-percent increase from the prior month (11,181), and a 52.3-percent decrease from the December 2012 volume (27,273). In December 2013, there were 13,164 claimants who received their final payment for unemployment benefits – a 71.7 percent increase from the prior month (7,668), and 4.1-percent from December 2012 (12,647).

As of Dec. 31, 2013, there were 199,263 covered employers in the state compared to 198,413 at the end of the prior quarter, and 196,943 at the end of December 2012.